



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**COLOMBIAN COCAINE KINGPIN SENTENCED IN TAMPA
TO 40 YEARS IN PRISON**

Tampa, Florida – United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that Joaquin Mario Valencia-Trujillo, age 49, of Cali, Colombia, was sentenced in federal court for his role as a Colombian cocaine kingpin. Valencia-Trujillo was sentenced to a prison term of 40 years and ordered to forfeit \$110 million. Valencia-Trujillo was convicted by a jury of all charges in October 2006.

Valencia-Trujillo was charged by Indictment in August of 2002 with Engaging in a Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Import Cocaine, Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine and Conspiracy to Engage in Money Laundering. After his arrest in Bogota, Colombia in January 2003, the defendant was extradited to the Middle District of Florida in March 2004.

During the four month trial, Government witnesses depicted Valencia-Trujillo as the cocaine supplier for Salvatore Magluta and Guillermo "Willie" Falcon dating back as early as the late 1970s. Testimony further described Valencia-Trujillo as the supplier of more than 100 tons of cocaine annually to the United States since the early 1990s until his arrest in January 2003.

In accordance with the extradition agreement with Colombia, the jury's verdict and the Court's sentence were based solely upon the defendant's post December 17, 1997 conduct.

Mr. Perez state, "The Valencia-Trujillo case serves as another example of the cooperation and commitment of the United States and Colombia to the counterdrug effort. The human misery and societal cost for which this defendant is responsible is immeasurable. The punishment is well-deserved and long overdue."

_____The investigation and prosecution was the result of the efforts of agents and analysts from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, United States Marshals Service, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and the Colombian National Police.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Maria Chapa-Lopez and Joseph K. Ruddy.